

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 06121 270339Z
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-08 USIA-15 H-02 /035 W
-----270610Z 005726 /15

R 270221Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7264
INFO AMCONSUL SAPPORO

UNCLAS TOKYO 6121

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, JA
SUBJECT: PROPOSED ALASKA IOGA TRADE MISSION

REF STATE 090795

1. EMBASSY AND SAPPORO CONSULATE WILL BE PLEASED TO ASSIST IOGA MISSION OUTLINED REFTEL AND FORESEE NO PROBLEM WITH PROPOSED DATES. PRIOR TO REFTEL, TOKYO REPRESENTATIVE OF ALASKA STATE, MR. KATSUYAMA, HAD NOT YET HEARD OF THIS PROPOSED MISSION BUT IS PREPARED TO WORK WITH EMBASSY AND CONSULATE ON THIS MATTER.

2. MISSION INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF ALASKA'S NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATIONS SHOULD EVOKE CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC INTEREST PARTICULARLY IN HOKKAIDO WHERE HOKKAIDO-ALASKA ASSOCIATION WAS ESTABLISHED LAST FALL. INTEREST FROM JAPANESE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON TYPE AND CONDITIONS OF INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES WHICH WILL BE PROPOSED BY THE REGIONAL CORPORATIONS AND BY OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION. SOME JAPANESE FIRMS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN ALASKA. FURTHERMORE, DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION AT THE TIME OF THE MISSION, SENATOR GRAVEL MAY FIND JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS OFFICIALS EAGER TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF
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JAPANESE PURCHASES OF ALASKAN OIL.

3. QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT OTHER AREAS OF JAPAN SHOULD BE VISITED BY MISSION RAISED REFTEL WILL DEPEND ON WHAT TYPE OF INVESTMENT AND SALES PROPOSALS WILL BE MADE BY GROUP. EMBASSY CAN BETTER COMMENT ON THIS AT LATER DATE WHEN COMPOSITION AND OBJECTIVES

OF MISSION HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

4. WHEN SENATOR GRAVEL VISITED JAPAN LAST FALL AS PART OF ALASKA TRADE MISSION, HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ATTRACTING JAPANESE BUSINESS/GOVERNMENT TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWING WHEAT AND BARLEY IN CERTAIN AREAS OF ALASKA. IN FACT, AT MEETING SET UP BY AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE'S OFFICE, MEMBER OF SENATOR'S STAFF BRIEFLY OUTLINED OPPORTUNITIES TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY OFFICIAL. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT, IF SENATOR GRAVEL AND MISSION PLAN TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER AGAIN IN DECEMBER, DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED OPPORTUNITIES BE DEVELOPED WELL IN ADVANCE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS PRIOR TO THE VISIT.
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